

William Forman



WILLIAM FORMAN, CATHERINE CAMPBELL AND MARY LOURY MONTGOMERY

William Forman was born in Glasgow, Scotland, November 17, 1834 to John Forman and Margaret Major.

When about twenty years old he embraced the gospel and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, uniting with the Glasgow branch of the

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Church. Two years later he emigrated to Salt Lake City, crossing the ocean and plains in the company of Captain Robert Campbell and lived with his family in Salt Lake City until December 25, 1854. He then lived with the family of Willard Richards, doing any kind of work he could find during the five years he resided in Salt Lake City. He worked for Brigham Young part of the time. He was appointed by the church authorities to look after the widows and orphans, as there were a great many at this time. He filled this calling well.

He was married to Catherine Campbell on October 10, 1859 and in March 1860 was sealed to her in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City by President Young.

Catherine Campbell was born April 30, 1832 in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was the daughter of Richard and Christina Campbell. She died in Heber City April 2, 1909. To this union were born four boys and one girl. William John, William Campbell, Benjamin Richard, Christina and John Forman.

He was advised to go to Provo Valley and obtain some land. He with his wife arrived in the valley in the spring of 1860 and immediately went to work building a home and preparing the land to plant grain. He followed this vocation all his life. He also had a saw mill and shingle business. He did whatever he was called upon to do in civic or religious activities. At one time he was called to donate a wagon and team for the purpose of helping immigrants across the plains. The donation was promptly made. He was also a Sergeant in the Black Hawk War. He was chosen with eleven other men to go to Uintah and try to make peace with the Indians.

When Heber was divided into the East and West Wards, William was chosen as Bishop of the West Ward, July 1877, with John Crook and George T. Giles as counselors. He held that position for 18 years. He was also appointed Presiding Bishop over the wards of Wasatch Stake. He hauled sandstone to Park City mines and to Salt Lake City for use on their sidewalks. He and the Buys brothers and Alexander Fortie

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

staked off the grounds for the Wasatch Stake House. They did most of the surveying in the valley at that time. He brought the first organ to Heber City. He married Mary Loury Montgomery, October 10, 1867, the ceremony was performed by Heber C. Kimball. To them were born 14 children, seven boys and seven girls: Robert, Nephi, Catherine Harwood, Mary Jane Orr, Agnes Turner Fields Jones, Joseph Smith, Margaret, twins, William and Willometta, Major, Orson Pratt, Nellie Clara Williams and June Nora Browning. A son died in infancy.

Mary Loury Montgomery was born June 1, 1851, at Anock Lodge in Ayrshire, Scotland, a daughter of Robert Montgomery and Mary Loury Montgomery. She came to Utah in 1862. She was a very pleasant, happy girl, always willing to help anyone in need. She was a Relief Society member and served as a counselor and teacher in the West Ward for many years. The last few years of her life were spent in Center Creek where she served as counselor in the Relief Society several years. She died at her home in Center Creek on December 23, 1902.

William Forman died at the home of his daughter Agnes Jones in Salt Lake City, February 3, 1910.

He and his wives are buried in the Heber City Cemetery.

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According to John Crook's journal, those who spent the winter of 1860-61 in the fort with their families were:

North Side: John Carlile, John Crook, Thomas Rasband, James Carlile, Fred Giles, Robert S. Duke, Willis Boren, James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Hyrum Oaks, Alfred Johnson, Sam Rooker, William Damaron, James Lamon and John Lee.

East Side: Alex Sessions, Richard Jones, Elisha Thomas, Bradford Sessions, Isaac Cummings, Darwin Walton, John Cummings Sr., Charles N. Carroll, George Damaron, Bailes Sprouse, Thomas Hicken, George Thompson and Norton Jacobs.

South Side: Thomas Moulton, Patrick Carroll, William Forman, John Muir, John M. Murdock, Thomas Todd, Cal Henry and Robert Carlile.

West Side: Jane Clotworthy, Zemira Palmer, James Duke, James Laird, Cub Johnson, John Davis, Robert Parker, Terry Burns, William McDonald, John Hamilton, George W. Clyde, John Witt, Joseph S. McDonald, John Jordan, a Mr. Russell and John McDonald.

By the time Spring was welcomed in 1861 the community of Heber was recognized by Church leaders in Salt Lake City as being large enough to organize into a ward. Thus, early in 1861 Joseph S. Murdock was ordained as bishop of the new ward by President Brigham Young and sent from American Fork to Heber to take charge of Church affairs. He chose as his counselors John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband. John Hamilton served as ward clerk.

Bishop Murdock also served as presiding bishop of the valley and directed the Church efforts of presiding elders who were called in the small communities that had begun to spring up in the valley. These community developments are discussed separately in later chapters.

The year 1861 proved to be a year of many significant accomplishments. With Church activity on an organized basis and the individual homes as well fixed as possible for that time, the settlers began to look to community improvements.

Provisions were made for old and new settlers to plant vegetable gardens outside the fort. Ephraim Smith and William P. Reynolds built a chopper run by horse power to chop wheat for those who could not go to the mills in Provo. While it was still somewhat crude, the chopper was a great help to those who had been grinding their flour in small hand mills.

Another bridge was built over the Provo River, this one located six miles north of Heber on the road to Salt Lake City. A good wagon road was also made through Provo Canyon, with toll being charged for use of the road.

John M. Murdock organized a cooperative sheep herd in 1860 and cared for the sheep during the summer months himself. He was able to take the sheep far enough south to winter out so that they did not need special supplies of hay. This method of caring for the sheep enabled

osity. He was also respected by the Indians because he had reared a young Indian girl and then later married her.

John W. Witt acted as bishop of the ward temporarily for several months and in December, 1867, President Young appointed Abram Hatch of Lehi, Utah County, as the new bishop of the ward.

Near Christmas time he left Utah County with his family and started for Heber and his new calling. It happened to be a very cold, rainy day and the canyon roads were bad, so William Averett, Robert Lindsay and Orson Hicken were dispatched to help the new bishop and his family make the journey.

His coming to the valley opened a new era in the lives of the people, for not only was Bishop Hatch an able Church administrator but he was also a man of sound business and financial judgment. Leaders called in the past had been particularly fitted for the pioneering work of the new area, but the community was established now and growing rapidly. The business experience of Bishop Hatch was to serve the people well during the 33 years he held positions of Church leadership in the area.

In addition to establishing a community store and strengthening the Church organization, Bishop Hatch encouraged the people to build better and more convenient homes and more adequate roads. He also played an important role in construction of a canal that benefitted the people of Heber and vicinity for many years.

During 1872 and 1873 Bishop Hatch directed the building of a social hall on main street. It was used for town meetings, Church services, dances and theatrical performances and served for many years.

Then in 1877 the area had grown sufficiently that the Church officials decided to organize a stake in the area. On July 14 and 15, 1877, Elders John Taylor and Franklin D. Richards of the Council of the Twelve Apostles came to Heber to effect the organization.

Bishop Hatch was called as the first stake president with Thomas H. Giles as first counselor and Henry S. Alexander, second counselor. Charles Shelton was sustained as stake clerk. High councilmen sustained were Joseph S. Murdock, John W. Witt, Isaac Baum, John Muir, James J. Howe, John McDonald, Gustavus Johnson, Henry McMullin, Sr., George W. Brown, Attewall Wootton, Sr., Henry Clegg and Daniel Bigelow.

At the same time Heber was divided into two wards with all those living east of Main Street included in the East Ward and all those west of Main Street in the West Ward. Thomas Rasband was ordained bishop of the East Ward with John Muir and Harmon Cummings as counselors and William Forman was chosen to head the West Ward with John Crook and George T. Giles as his counselors.

The stake, as organized, extended into Uintah County on the east, north into what is now Summit County and covered all of Wasatch